

(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) today announced that Marquette University and Alverno College will receive \$53,787 and \$42,826 respectively for Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students. At Marquette University, these gift funds will go to students who are pursuing degrees in dentistry and physical therapy. Funds for Alverno College will go toward nursing scholars. These grants are being awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services.

“With very limited scholarship resources available to them, many students have no choice but to take out incredibly expensive loans and trap themselves in debt for years to come,” Rep. Moore said. “With the critical health care needs facing Wisconsin and a growing shortage of health care providers, it is more important than ever that students have incentives to pursue these valuable degrees and use their skills in the community after graduation.”

“We are happy to hear of the Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students funding that’s being awarded to our students,” said Carla Smith-Liebich, Senior Assistant Director of Marquette University Office of Student Financial Aid. “Many of our graduate and professional students’ financial aid consists of loan assistance that has to be repaid, so Marquette’s students greatly appreciate this type of gift assistance.”

“The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students are such important resources for our students, almost all of whom work part- to full-time while attending Alverno and then stay in the Milwaukee area when they graduate,” said Judeen Schulte, Professor and Dean at the Alverno College School of Nursing. “With the increased SDS scholarship award, more students can move more quickly to become professional registered nurses and help reduce the nursing shortage in our Milwaukee area.

“We would also like to thank Congresswoman Moore and all the staff who helped Alverno achieve this increased award. It truly does mean a lot to our students to have additional resources. As faculty and staff, we know that our Alverno students and graduates are incredible people who are doing amazing things with their lives and education. So, every boost any student gets makes all of us very happy.”

At Marquette University, tuition costs for degrees in dentistry and physical therapy are high overall, and dental students also have instrument and gown fees to pay each year. Marquette’s

dental school has historically drawn a diverse population of students with all levels of income and very different backgrounds.

Alverno's nursing program is the school's largest major, enrolling 659 full-time students and 742 students overall. The program helps improve the proportion of women of color in the nursing profession by attracting and retaining African-American, Hispanic, and Asian-American students to Alverno. Students from these groups make up more than one-fourth of full-time nursing students and one-third of all nursing students (when part-time students are considered).

Alverno College's nursing program chooses recipients for the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students award from those who are enrolled in the full-time nursing program who demonstrate financial need. Students must apply for these scholarship awards. In addition to financial need, other circumstances such as family illness, job layoffs, academic accomplishments and career goals are factors that help determine which students are selected.

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